

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for drying bulk material ~~for use as fuel in a power station operating~~ in connection with a pulp or paper production process and for cooling waste water of the pulp or paper production process, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing a walled enclosure defining a drying space and including a bulk material inlet for introducing bulk material to be dried into the drying space, a bulk material outlet for discharging dried bulk material from the drying space and a gas discharge connector for discharging drying gas from the drying space,
 - (b) positioning at least one drying conveyor within the drying space so that the bulk material conveyed to the drying space through the bulk material inlet is deposited onto one end of the conveyor and the dried material is discharged through the bulk material outlet from an opposite end of the conveyor,
 - (c) positioning a heat exchanger within the walled enclosure so that drying gas to be heated is introduced from outside the drying space and heated drying gas from the heat exchanger is discharged into the drying space,
 - (d) [[([a])] conveying bulk material to be dried through the bulk material inlet and onto the one end of the with at least one drying conveyor located in [[a]] the drying space,
 - (e) (~~b~~) ~~feeding~~ introducing a drying gas ~~into~~ from a blower positioned outside the enclosure to the heat exchanger located within the drying space,
 - (f) [[([c])] bringing heated waste water from the pulp or paper production process into heat exchange relationship with the drying gas introduced into the drying space by the blower to heat the drying gas and discharging

- the heated drying gas into the drying space of the enclosure while simultaneously cooling the waste water,
- (g) conducting the heated drying gas through the at least one drying conveyor conveying the bulk material to be dried and thereafter discharging the drying gas that has passed through the at least one drying conveyor from the drying space through a gas discharge connector; and
- (e) discharging conveying the dried bulk material from the drying space, to the power station and using the dried material as fuel for the power station.
2. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drying conveyor comprises a chain conveyor which supports and carries along a wire mesh or screen fabric on which the material to be dried is conveyed, and wherein step ~~[[d]]~~ (g) includes conducting the heated gas through the wire mesh or screen fabric and through the material to be dried that is carried on the wire mesh or screen fabric.
3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the drying gas ~~to be heated~~ is air.
4. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature of the heated gas is 35–85 °C.
5. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gas is heated by hot waste water in a heat exchanger.
6. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gas is heated in a heat exchanger in the drying space.
7. (currently amended) An apparatus for drying bulk material in connection with a pulp or paper production process and for cooling waste water of the pulp or

paper production process, the apparatus comprising: a power station operating in connection with a pulp or paper production process; and
a dryer for drying the bulk material for use as fuel in the power station and for cooling the waste water of the pulp or paper production process, wherein the dryer comprises:

- (i) a walled enclosure defining a drying space and including a bulk material inlet for introducing bulk material to be dried into the drying space, a bulk material outlet for discharging dried bulk material from the drying space and a gas discharge connector for discharging drying gas from the drying space,
- (ii) a heat exchanger positioned within the walled enclosure so that drying gas to be heated is introduced from outside the drying space and heated drying gas from the heat exchanger is discharged into the drying space, at least one gas heating device,
- (iii) at least one blower located outside the drying space arranged to blow drying gas through the enclosure and to the heat exchanger so that heated drying gas is discharged by the heat exchanger into the drying space, via said gas heating device for producing heated gas and/or to suck cooled gas out of the drying space,
- (iv) waste water connectors for conducting waste water produced in the pulp or paper production process into and out of the heat exchanger, wherein the heat exchanger is arranged to heat the drying gas with the waste water while simultaneously cooling the waste water with the drying gas, and
- (v) [[[(iv)]] at least one drying conveyor located in the drying space so that the bulk material conveyed to the drying space through the bulk material inlet is deposited onto one end of the conveyor and the dried material is discharged through the bulk material outlet from an opposite end of the conveyor, the at least one drying

~~conveyor carrying a bed of material to be dried through the drying space such that the heated gas is arranged to travel through the at least one conveyor and through the bed of material carried thereby, wherein~~

[[[(iv)]] the at least one drying conveyor comprises a chain conveyor equipped with a drive apparatus, wherein the chain conveyor includes a pair of spaced-apart chains and support members extending between the pair of chains, and a wire mesh or screen fabric supported by the support members of the chains and running on the chain conveyor such that the heated gas travels through the wire mesh or screen fabric, ~~and wherein the apparatus further comprises, waste water connectors for conducting waste water produced in the pulp or paper production process into and out of the gas heating device, wherein the gas heating device is arranged to heat gas with the waste water while simultaneously cooling the waste water with the said gas, and dried material connectors for conducting the dried material from the drying space to the power plant for use as fuel in the power plant.~~

8. (canceled)
9. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the wire mesh or screen fabric and the chain conveyor are substantially equal in width.
10. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the width of the wire mesh or screen fabric is 2–8 metres.
- 11.-18. (canceled)
19. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, comprising a paper mill having a paper production process, wherein the waste water connectors are

arranged to conduct waste water produced in the paper production process of the paper mill into and out of the at least one gas heating device.

20. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, comprising a pulp mill having a pulp production process, wherein the waste water connectors are arranged to conduct waste water produced in the pulp production process of the pulp mill into and out of the gas heating device.
21. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bulk material comprises bark, sawdust, pretreated sludge or mixtures thereof.
22. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the chain conveyor is operated at a speed of 0.02-0.1 metres per second.